

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-00

INFO OCT-01 SS-25 ISO-00 SSO-00 SP-00 INRE-00 PM-00
NSCE-00 DODE-00 CIAE-00 CCO-00 /026 W
-----262102Z 130300 /41

O R 261930Z APR 77
FM USMISSION NATO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3182
INFO ALL NATO CAPITALS

S E C R E T SECTION 1 OF 2 USNATO 2435

EXDIS

DEPARTMENT PLEASE PASS SECDEF, USNMR SHAPE, USLO SACLANT

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: OVIP (CARTER, JIMMY), NATO, PFOR
SUBJ: NATO SUMMIT: PERMREP LUNCH DISCUSSION APRIL 26, 1977

REF: STATE 93361 DTG 260245Z APR 77

SUMMARY: AT PERMREP LUNCH APRIL 26, CHARGE DREW FULLY ON
HELPFUL GUIDANCE REFTEL THAT ELICITED UNIFORMLY
POSITIVE REACTIONS FROM SYG LUNS AND PERMREPS. ALL WHO SPOKE
EXPRESSED GENERALLY AFFIRMATIVE REACTIONS TO MAIN THRUST OF
US PROPOSALS, LARGELY ECHOING NATIONAL POSITIONS
DETAILED IN STATE 93335 DTG 260130Z APR 77, AND ALL LOOKED
FORWARD TO EARLIEST POSSIBLE CONSULTATIONS--PREFERABLY
LATER THIS WEEK--ON WAYS TO REFLECT US PROPOSALS IN
SUMMIT COMMUNIQUE. STRONG MAJORITY ALSO ENDORSED
PROSPECT OF DPC SESSION PRIOR TO SUMMIT TO CONSIDER
ELEMENTS OF PROPOSED DEFENSE REVIEW. ACTION REQUESTED:
EARLY GUIDANCE ON US PROPOSALS AND SUGGESTED COMMUNI-
QUE FORMULATIONS FOR NAC DISCUSSION AND FURTHER IN-
STRUCTIONS CONCERNING SCHEDULING OF DPC MEETING,
PREFERABLY DURING WEEK OF MAY 1 (USNATO 2404 DTG 260913Z
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APR 77). END SUMMARY.

1. PERMREPS FOCUSED INITIALLY ON NATIONAL
REACTIONS TO US PROPOSALS AND THEN TURNED TO DISCUSSION OF
CHARGE'S PRESENTATION OF US PLANS FOR CONSULTATIONS
BASED UPON REFTEL.

2. LUNS REITERATED HIS OPPOSITION TO BILATERAL
CONSULTATIONS ON THE GROUNDS THAT NATO PERMREPS SHOULD
BE CLOSELY IN TOUCH WITH ISSUES IMPACTING DIRECTLY ON

THE ALLIANCE, NOTING THAT, OTHERWISE, GOVERNMENTS MAY PROCEED IN ERRONEOUS DIRECTIONS. SPECIFICALLY, HE ALSO OBJECTED TO THE US PROPOSAL TO RECRUIT EXPERTS TO PREPARE ASSESSMENTS OF POLITICAL AND SECURITY QUESTIONS.

3. HARTOGH (NETHERLANDS) SAID HE BELIEVED THAT THE US BILATERAL APPROACH MAY HAVE BEEN FASTER THAN MULTILATERAL DISCUSSIONS IN NATO. CONTRARY TO NETHERLANDS POSITIONS OUTLINED IN STATE 93335, HARTOGH SAW NO NEED FOR EXPERTS NOT BOUND TO GOVERNMENT POSITIONS AND SAID LONG-TERM PLANNING COULD BE HANDLED BY THE INTERNATIONAL STAFF, IF APPROPRIATELY TASKED. HARTOGH STRONGLY SUPPORTED, HOWEVER, US PROPOSALS FOR REVIEWING DEFENSE PLANNING PROCEDURES, IN WHICH HE SAW THE SEEDS OF FORMER DEFENSE MINISTER VREDELING'S THINKING.

4. SCHUURMANS (BELGIUM) LATER JOINED BY KIRCA (TURKEY), SAID HIS AUTHORITIES SAW NO NEED FOR NEW MECHANISMS AND WOULD HAVE PREFERRED TO ADDRESS THE SUMMIT PREPARATIONS ENTIRELY IN NATO.

5. PAULS (FRG) WARMLY WELCOMED US PROPOSALS BUT INDICATED THAT THE NOTION OF HIRING A STAFF OF WISE MEN NEEDED TO BE EXAMINED. HE AGREED WITH HARTOGH THAT THE IS MIGHT BE CHARGED WITH SPECIAL STUDY TASKS. MOREOVER, THE LARGE NUMBER OF EXISTING BODIES DEALING WITH DEFENSE EQUIPMENT SUGGESTED THAT IT WOULD BE
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PREFERABLE TO AVOID ADDING YET ANOTHER AT HIGH LEVEL. HE ALSO SAW SOME DANGER IN PUBLISHING PORTIONS OF THE PRESIDENT'S SPEECH WHICH TOUCHED ON PROPOSALS FOR AN EAST-WEST STUDY, PARALLELING THE FRG POSITION DESCRIBED IN PARA 5 OF STATE 93335.

6. SVART (DENMARK) AND KILLICK (UK) SAID THAT THEY AND THEIR AUTHORITIES VIEWED US PROPOSALS VERY POSITIVELY, THOUGH SVART OPPOSED THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A "BRAIN TRUST" TO ADDRESS EAST-WEST RELATIONS, BUT COULD SEE ADVANTAGES IN OCCASIONALLY ENLISTING THE ASSISTANCE OF OUTSIDE EXPERTS TO PREPARE STUDIES ON SPECIFIC TOPICS.

7. TINE (FRANCE) FAVORED USING APAG AND OTHER EXISTING BODIES FOR EAST-WEST STUDIES, RATHER THAN A SPECIAL GROUP OF CONSULTANTS, AND CITED THE RECENT NAC CONSULTATION ON DEVELOPMENTS IN EASTERN EUROPE AS A PARAGON OF EFFECTIVE ALLIANCE EFFORT IN THE GENERAL AREA OF EAST-WEST RELATIONS.

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ACTION EUR-00

INFO OCT-01 SS-25 ISO-00 SSO-00 SP-00 INRE-00 PM-00

NSCE-00 DODE-00 CIAE-00 CCO-00 /026 W

-----262105Z 130384 /41

O R 261930Z APR 77

FM USMISSION NATO

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8. VIBE (NORWAY) ASSOCIATED HIMSELF WITH THOSE OPPOSED TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN EXPERT GROUP TO CONDUCT POLICY ASSESSMENTS BUT EMPHASIZED THAT NORWAY VIEWED THE US PROPOSALS VERY POSITIVELY. HOWEVER, HE ALSO JOINED PAULS IN EXPRESSING CONCERN ABOUT PUBLIC DISCUSSION OF A PROPOSAL FOR A MAJOR EAST-WEST RELATIONS STUDY.

9. HARDY (CANADA) SAID HIS AUTHORITIES WELCOMED THE THREE MAIN THEMES PROPOSED TO BE ARTICULATED BY THE PRESIDENT AT THE SUMMIT. MOREOVER, HE HOPED THAT THE PRESIDENT WOULD DEAL NOT ONLY WITH PROCEDURE BUT ALSO IN SOME DETAIL WITH SUBSTANTIVE MATTERS RELATED TO THE EVOLUTION OF US POLICY TOWARD THE SOVIET UNION.

10. LUNS SUMMARIZED THE GENERAL ATTITUDE OF THE PERMREPS AS HIGHLY POSITIVE TOWARD THE US PROPOSALS AND STRESSED HIS PERSONAL VIEW THAT POLITICAL WILL WAS NEEDED ON THE PART OF THE ALLIES RATHER THAN NEW PROCEDURES IN ORDER TO MOVE AHEAD, PARTICULARLY IN THE FIELD OF ARMAMENTS. IN THIS
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CONNECTION, CATALANO (ITALY) POINTED TO THE CURRENT DRAFT OF MINISTERIAL GUIDANCE FOR FORCE PLANNING DPC ID(77) 6 (DRAFT) AND ASKED WHETHER SUCH DETAILED AND FORWARD-LOOKING LANGUAGE REALLY ACCORDED WITH REALITY IN THE LIGHT OF THE CLEAR INABILITY OF SOME COUNTRIES TO MEET THE CRITERIA TO BE ESTABLISHED BY THE GUIDANCE.

11. FOLLOWING CHARGE'S PRESENTATION BASED UPON REFTTEL, KILLICK, HARTOGH, VIBE, PAULS AND LUNS EXPRESSED STRONG SUPPORT FOR US PLANS FOR THE NEXT PHASE OF CONSULTATION WITH THE ALLIES, INCLUDING ATTENTION TO COMMUNIQUE FORMULATIONS AND PLANS FOR DPC DISCUSSION. LUNS OFFERED

TO ARRANGE FOR A NAC MEETING AS SOON AS CONVENIENT TO US
TO PURSUE CONSULTATIONS ON COMMUNIQUE
LANGUAGE, AND ALSO AGREED TO SCHEDULE A DPC SESSION
DURING WEEK OF MAY 1, IF US DESIRED. CHARGE REPLIED
THAT HE WOULD INFORM LUNS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE OF
FURTHER US VIEWS INCLUDING SCHEDULED PREFERRED BY HIS
AUTHORITIES FOR PURSUING DISCUSSIONS IN NAC AND DPC.

12. TINE, IN COMMENTING ON POSSIBLE COMMUNIQUE
LANGUAGE, UNDERLINED THAT IT WOULD BE "UNACCEPTABLE"
TO FRANCE TO INCLUDE A REFERENCE TO ARMAMENTS COOPERA-
TION ALONG THE SPECIFIC LINES CONTAINED IN THE US
PROPOSAL. HARDY, ECHOING THE CANADIAN
POSITION DESCRIBED IN PARA 2 OF STATE 93335, SAID THAT
HOLDING A DPC DISCUSSION ON US DEFENSE PROPOSALS PRIOR
TO THE SUMMIT WOULD "PUT THE CART BEFORE THE HORSE."
HE PREFERRED A SEQUENCE IN WHICH A DPC SESSION AT
PERMREP LEVEL WOULD BE SCHEDULED FOLLOWING THE DPC
MINISTERIAL MEETING, AT WHICH MINISTERS WOULD REACH
AGREEMENT ON THE PROJECTED ALLIED DEFENSE PROGRAM.
NONE SUPPORTED HARDY ON THIS POINT AND A NUMBER,
INCLUDING HARTOGH, PAULS AND KILLICK, SPOKE STRONGLY
IN FAVOR OF HAVING AS MUCH ADVANCE INFORMATION AS POSSI-
BLE ON THE BACKGROUND OF THE US PROPOSALS. CHARGE
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POINTED OUT THAT THE US SUGGESTION FOR A DPC PERMREP
MEETING PRIOR TO THE SUMMIT WAS DESIGNED TO BRING
ALLIES ABREAST OF CURRENT US THINKING,
AND PAULS WELCOMED THE PROSPECT OF "AUTHENTIC INTER-
PRETATIONS" BEING ARTICULATED IN SUCH A MEETING.

13. COMMENT: HELPBUL GUIDANCE REFTEL HAS ASSUAGED
MOST REMAINING PERMREP CONCERNS, AND WE ANTICIPATE
THEIR FULL COOPERATION IN NEXT STEPS.
AS WASHINGTON IS AWARE, THE PRINCIPAL ALLIED OBJEC-
TIONS STEM FROM PROCEDURAL CONCERNS AND WE BELIEVE THAT
WASHINGTON PLANS REFLECTED IN PARA 3 OF REFTEL WILL
GO FAR TO MEET THESE RESIDUAL PROBLEMS. IN THIS
CONNECTION, AND IN VIEW OF FRENCH PREOCCUPATIONS, WE
RECOMMEND A PARTICULARLY LIGHT TOUCH IN
INSERTING INTO THE DIALOGUE ON DEFENSE PRODUCTION A
VOICE THAT CAN SPEAK TO COMMON INTERESTS OF THE
ALLIANCE.
WE WILL NEED, AS WELL, TO DEAL WITH FRG AND NORWEGIAN CONCERNS
ABOUT MAKING PUBLIC PROPOSALS FOR EAST-WEST STUDY. STREATOR

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 30-Aug-1999 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 26-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977NATO02435
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: n/a
Expiration:
Film Number: n/a
Format: TEL
From: NATO
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t197704102/baaabdfg.tel
Line Count: 214
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Message ID: 19feb39b-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: STATE 93361 DTG 260245Z APR 77
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 27-Oct-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2667351
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NATO SUMMIT: PERMREP LUNCH DISCUSSION APRIL 26, 1977
TAGS: OVIP (CARTER, JIMMY), NATO, PFOR
To: STATE INFO ALL NATO CAPITALS
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/19feb39b-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009